

# Appendix V: Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion

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Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires the preparation of a Biological Assessment (BA), to determine the effects of implementing a federal action (the Kremmling Proposed RMP) on listed species. Federal agencies are required to consider, and avoid or prevent adverse impacts to fish and wildlife species. Federal agencies also are required to ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of T&E species or their critical habitats.

This BA describes the comprehensive analysis of the Kremmling Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) conducted to determine the effects of proposed management on T&E species and their habitats. The public lands and federal mineral estate in the Kremmling Planning Area are the subject of the planning effort, and of this document. The BA is a component of the PRMP/FEIS.

The Biological Opinion (BO) is provided by the USFWS (the Service), in response to the BLM's request for formal consultation under Section 7 of the ESA. The BO describes the Service's review of the BA, and provides conclusions about the likelihood of management actions in the PRMP to jeopardize T&E species. The BO addresses conservation measures, which are provided in detail in Appendix W of the PRMP/FEIS.

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## **Biological Opinion**

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